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SVH
The Friday Letter

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On the Hill



**CNP Reauthorizations Begin
Hill Activity**

CONGRESS WILL BE BACK IN SESSION ON May 31 after a short recess for the Memorial Day holiday. On June 1, the Senate Agriculture Committee, Nutrition and Investigations Subcommittee, will hold a hearing at 10 a.m. on the Child Nutrition Programs reauthorizations. Acting Administrator Scott Dunn is scheduled to testify on behalf of the Administration.

On June 7, the House Education and Labor Committee will begin markup of H.R. 24, a bill to reauthorize expiring child nutrition legislation. On June 14, the Senate Agriculture Nutrition and Investigations Subcommittee will continue hearings on the Child Nutrition Programs reauthorizations with primary focus on the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). No Department witnesses will be testifying.

-Story by Robert Beard
Office of Governmental Affairs

**More Personnel Shifts Transpire
at Headquarters**

George Braley, deputy administrator for Special Nutrition Programs, will be serving as acting associate administrator beginning May 30. Stan Garnett, assistant deputy administrator for Special Nutrition Programs, will be serving as acting deputy administrator.

Updates will be provided as further changes occur.

**Who's Creating the Winning
FNS T-Shirt Design ?**

Yes, there's hidden talent out there, and we're anxiously awaiting more entries for the contest.

We know there's an artist deep down inside all of us so let's keep our imaginations flowing and have some fun illustrating our ideas.

We'll need your design by June 2 at close of business.

-Story by Mary Kennedy
Public Information Staff

USDA Holds 43rd Honor Awards Ceremony

USDA's Honor Awards Ceremony for 1989 is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m. on June 7 at the Departmental Auditorium (1300 Constitution Avenue, N.W.).

The nominees selected from FNS are Rick Hargreaves (SERO) and Celeste Zywiciel (MWRO). Awards this year were based on

recommendations to Secretary Clayton Yeutter from USDA's Honor Awards Selection Committee. The committee evaluated 158 nominations and selected 104 individuals and groups.

All USDA employees are invited to attend the ceremony.

20th Anniversary Photo Trivia



Can you name these people and where they are now located?

The Vitalis
poster kid!



NERO Begins Campaign to "Save a Tree"

While Federal employees rightfully resent being referred to as "paper-pushers," few would deny that a large amount of paper is used in the Federal workplace. A dollar value can be put on this paper. Its cost is perhaps greatest not in currency but in the number of trees that must be destroyed to manufacture it. Sensitive to this and recognizing the amount of paper that goes through the office, NERO recently began a campaign to "Save a Tree" by recycling waste paper.

People Who Live in Greenhouses



Shouldn't Throw Away Paper.

SAVE A TREE
RECYCLE PAPER



USDA Food and Nutrition Service

In mid-1988, Peter Manning, program analyst at NERO, became aware that EPA Regional Administrator Michael Deland was calling for a lead agency in the O'Neill Building to test the feasibility of recycling paper. NERO took on the challenge along with the Peace Corps office and agreed to collect waste paper to be picked up by a local nonprofit recycling organization to be reprocessed.

Though the campaign is just underway, it appears that NERO's efforts to "Save a Tree" will be successful. "We're filling the collection hamper every 2 weeks," McLean said. "That amount of paper will provide raw material equivalent to about four trees. At that rate, in a year or so, we'll have saved a small forest."

McLean hopes NERO's efforts and example will encourage the other Federal offices in the O'Neill Building and the paper industry. "I'd like to see the day when the paper industry starts looking at waste paper for raw materials instead of looking at forests," McLean stated. NERO is also looking into purchasing recycled paper for some of its office functions. "Right now we are contributing to the supply side of the recycled paper industry. I'd like to see us, and eventually all of the government, contributing to the demand side as well."

-Story by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

"We live in what has been called a 'throw-away' society, and this is largely true," stated NERO Administrator Harold McLean. "However, we can no longer afford this luxury. The world is too small, and resources can no longer be taken for granted."

McLean had contacted GSA in 1985 to propose that paper recycling be conducted in the new Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Building. GSA considered the idea but unfortunately did not find sufficient potential in it, and paper continued to be sent to landfills.

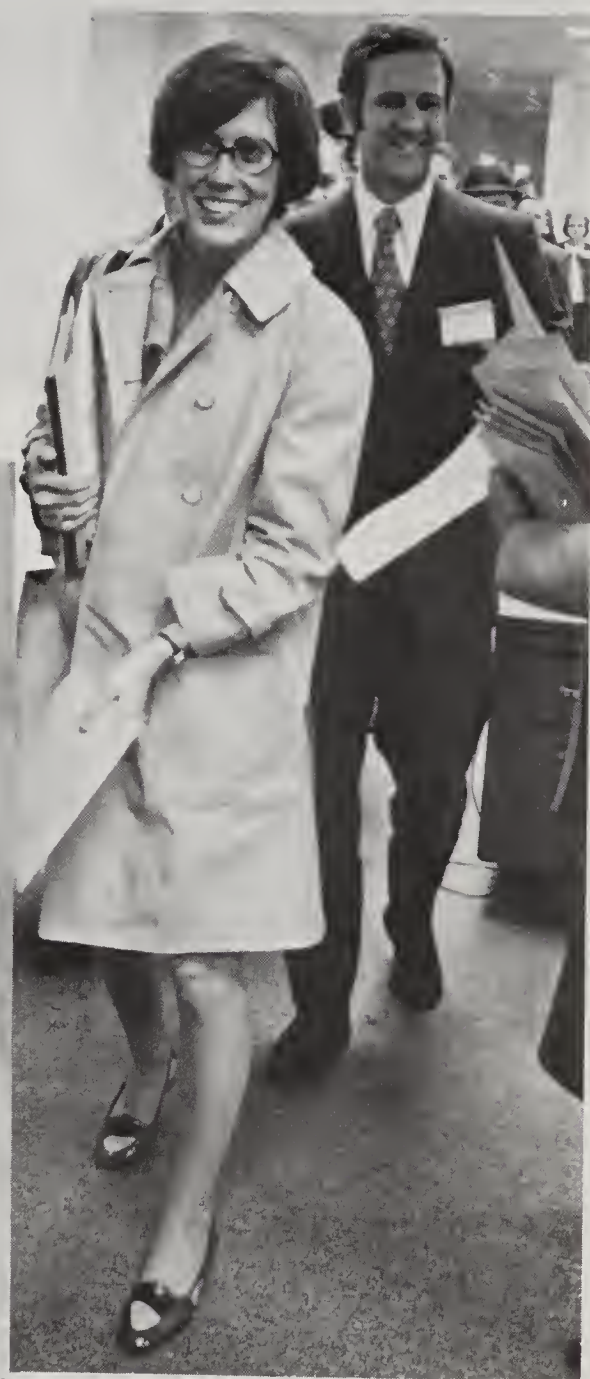
Variety Makes OIC's Job Interesting

Denver Field Office OIC Irene Wise relishes the variety of assignments that come her way. Long accustomed to authorizing grocery retailers to accept food stamps, Wise recently broke out of that mold by providing training to two organizations that serve recipients in nontraditional ways.

(OIC Continued Next Page)



The FNS
fashion coordinator.



And you
think you
have a
tight travel
budget!



Who is this delivering the
news about PAW?

Do you know
what PAW means
or what it was first called?

MARO Observes Women's History Month

MARO's Federal Women's Program Committee (FWPC) recently commemorated Women's History Month by hosting three informative women guest speakers from the New Jersey area.



Pictured (left to right) are MARO Administrator Christopher Martin, guest speaker Dr. Guida West, FWPC members Carol Savage, Ellen Shannon, Anne Christensen, and Susan Hilberg.

Ann Wilson, director of the New Jersey Network on Adolescent Pregnancy, addressed the topic of women and management. She explained how women could transfer management skills used in the home to the office. She also

stressed the need for women to work with each other to achieve management positions.

Psychotherapist Rosemarie Poverman is well known in New Jersey for her dynamic, informative, and humorous speaking style. She spoke on a broad range of subjects including women's issues, the family, child guidance, and coping skills in the workplace. Poverman is the founder and president of The Guidance Group, Inc., which provides psycho-social counseling for individuals and staff development.

Dr. Guida West spoke on a topic closely related to FNS programs. West, who is a special project administrator for the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University, lectured on the role women have played in welfare reform.

Although welfare reform has been a controversial topic throughout history, it continues to be an area where all women's groups should work together to achieve. West urged women to become involved in policymaking to accomplish this goal.

The FWPC also sponsored a baby photo contest entitled, "You've Come a Long Way Baby," which challenged staff to identify members of the FWPC.

-Story and photo by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff

USDA EEO Manager Visits MPRO

Barbara Gary, USDA's Federal Women's Program manager, recently addressed MPRO staff at a 1-1/2-hour meeting during her first visit to Denver. Following a reception, she was welcomed by regional Special Nutrition Programs Director Ann Hector and introduced by MPRO EEO/Civil Rights Director Evelyn Stafford. Gary showed a videotape of USDA's position on civil rights and equal opportunity employment, which presented a message from Naomi Churchill, acting director of the Office of Advocacy and Enterprise.

Gary stressed the Department's commitment to reaching parity with the private sector in affirmative action. She also discussed USDA's enhanced EEO counseling program and the new life being brought to the Upward Mobility Program.

About 40 MPRO employees attended, and the question-and-answer period generated a great deal of interaction.

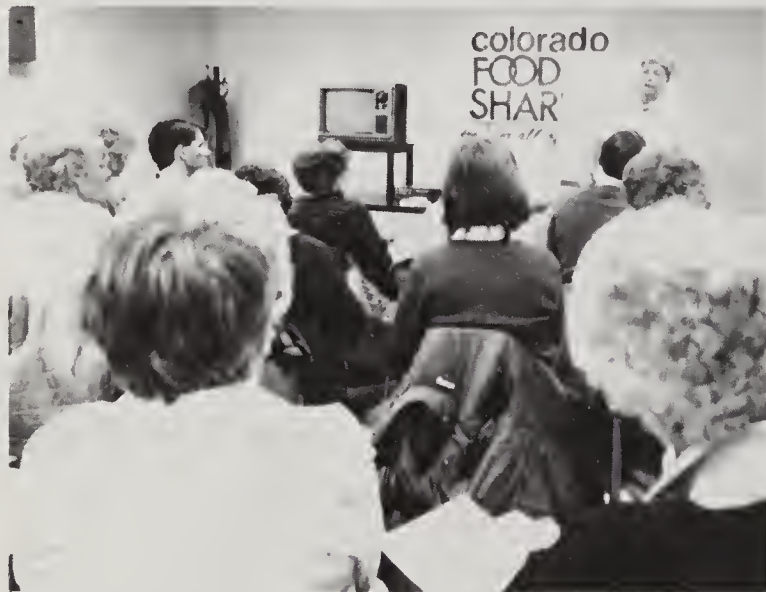
-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

(OIC Continued)

Wise met with 92 farmers and market masters of the Colorado Farmers Market, whose members sell their fruits and vegetables directly to consumers at open-air markets. Some were initially skeptical about accepting food stamps due to their negative perceptions of the program. Other farmers felt food stamp transactions were too complex and required unwanted bookkeeping.

Wise explained how the program works, who it serves, what the income guidelines are, and how farmers could benefit by selling their produce as well as food bearing plants. Afterwards, an official of the marketing group indicated he now felt enthusiastic about accepting food stamps.

Each farmer will decide whether he or she wants to be authorized individually to accept stamps or to participate in a combined authorization with other farmers in their county marketing associations.



The following day, Wise appeared before a group of volunteers participating in the new Colorado SHARE Program. SHARE, which stands for Self Help And Resource Exchange, was established in San Diego, California, in 1983. The unique program lets participants purchase \$35-40 worth of groceries for \$12 in cash or food stamps and 2 hours of community service. Families may purchase as many food packages as they wish. The packages vary from month to month but generally contain fresh and frozen meat items,

fresh fruits and vegetables, and staple items such as rice, lentils, or pasta.

Wise outlined correct procedures for handling food stamps, cash change provisions, endorsements, and redemption certificates. The Colorado SHARE Program is now underway, and the food stamp transactions should be free of any glitches.

-Story and photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

SERO Holds IRM Conference

Procurement was the prime topic at the second annual Management Information Systems/Information Resource Management Conference recently held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The 45 state and Federal officials in attendance focused on procurement and contracting issues in order to:

- (1) address management and technology issues as they relate to automating FNS programs within the states,
- (2) share knowledge between FNS and states, and
- (3) become more innovative in addressing change.

The keynote address was delivered by Deputy Administrator for Management Joseph Leo, who emphasized the states' procurement responsibilities when acquiring computer services and equipment. SERO Regional Administrator Virgil Conrad charged the conferees with improving efficiency and productivity. In addition, each state presented a progress report on its contracting and procurement practices.

"There was an underlying theme of change and how you manage and cope with it from a procurement standpoint," said Dick Roache, SERO's IRM chief. That's because automation is an integral part of the way we do business."

-Story by Steve Watson
SERO Public Affairs Staff

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-state food assistance programs for the month of March with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Mar. 1988</u>	<u>Feb. 1989</u>	<u>Mar. 1989</u> 2/
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	19.2	18.8	19.2
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	965.8	972.6	999.2
Average bonus per person	\$ 50.20	\$ 51.66	\$ 52.17
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	1,066.3	1,076.9	1,103.5
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	90.6	91.5	91.5
Children participating (mil.)	24.3	24.2	24.2
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.6	11.5	11.5
Percentage of lunches served free	41.0	40.8	40.8
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	6.7	6.8	6.7
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	393.9	369.7	375.7
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	38.8	40.0	40.0
Children participating (mil.)	3.8	3.8	3.9
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	87.3	86.9	86.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	55.1	50.2	54.2
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	44.6	37.8	41.7
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	32.8	31.8	34.7
Percentage of all meals served free	78.2	78.9	78.3
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	58.3	55.2	59.7
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.6	4.0	4.1
Food cost (\$ mil.)	123.2	121.1	122.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	151.6	157.7	152.6
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>			
People participating (thous.)	220.7	222.8	230.0
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	3.9	3.9	4.5
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	107	108	108
People participating (thous.)	138.7	142.4	146.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.5	5.0	5.0
<u>Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:</u>			
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	71.4	19.0	23.7

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of May 23, 1989.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	CLOSING GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	12/13	06/05/89	89-113	OAE
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	9/11	06/05/89	89-114	OAE
o Program Analyst	(FNS-N)	GM-345	14	06/02/89	89-115	ORO
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	13	06/05/89	89-116	OAE
o Clerk Typist (Summer Emp)	(A) (LOCAL)	GS-322	2/3/4	06/02/89	89-118	SFPD
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	11/12	07/03/89	89-119	OAE
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	9/11	06/20/89	89-120	OAE
o Food Prog Officer	(FNS-H)	GM-120	15	06/09/89	89-121	FSP*

Office Location

OAE - Office of Analysis and
Evaluation
ORO - Office of Regional
Operations
SFPD - Supplemental Food
Programs Division
FSP - Food Stamp Program

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
(FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition
Service (Nationwide)
(A LOCAL) - Local commuting area
(FNS-H) - Food and Nutrition
Service (Headquarters)

* Temporary Promotion - NTE 120 days.

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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